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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

JANUARY 1980

VOL. II, NO. 8

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

CASE OF THE MISSING "T's"

The Legislative Council continues to receive several telephone calls and letters daily concerning the lack of a "T" category in the 1979 Montana Code Index. Data Retrieval Corporation of America has reported that the cause was human error by one of their staff, not a program or computer error. Negotiations are underway for a reprinting of the faulty volume. The cost of reprinting and distributing the single volume is estimated to be approximately \$15,000.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

ANNEXATION TO MEET IN BILLINGS

The Study Committee on Annexation will meet in Billings on Friday, January 11. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Yellowstone Room on the second floor of the Student Union Building at Eastern Montana College. The meeting is designed to elicit public comment on several discussion proposals aimed at problems with Montana's annexation laws.

CORRECTIONS

The Study Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs met in Helena on December 14 to review draft legislation to revise Montana's sentencing laws and to hear an update on prison expansion programs and prison population projections.

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 28

The Committee will hold a public hearing in the SRS Building Auditorium, 111 Sanders, Helena, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 28, to receive written and oral testimony on any matter related to adult corrections in Montana and, specifically, on the various legislative proposals to revise Montana's criminal codes in the areas of sentencing and parole that are currently under consideration by the Committee. Copies of the 10 draft bills are available upon request.

SENTENCING DRAFT BILLS AVAILABLE

The Committee will continue to meet on Friday, February 29, to discuss comments from the public hearing and to begin "mark-up" of the draft legislation.

BRANCHING
OF FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS

The Study Committee on Branching of Financial Institutions met on December 8 in an effort to determine the need for changes in Montana's branching laws. Vigorous discussion was held with various bank presidents from around the state, representatives of the Montana Independent Bankers' Association, and the Montana Credit Unions League.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, pending a report to be submitted to the Committee by the Montana Bankers' Association.

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
MANDATES

The Study Committee on State Mandates and the Effects of State-Owned Property on Local Governments will hold its next meeting on Saturday, January 19, beginning at 9:00 a.m., to consider prioritized state mandates and services provided by local governments to targeted state-owned facilities.

NCSL GRANT
AWARDED

A grant application submitted to the NCSL State/Local Finance Project for funding and technical assistance to focus on the area of state compensation to local governments for state-owned property has been approved by NCSL and \$10,000 is available to support Committee activities.

ACIR HELP
OFFERED

Bill Coleman, a consultant from the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, met with the Committee members, Committee staff, and state officials in December to review related activity in other states and ACIR draft legislation.

PUBLIC
RETIREMENT
SYSTEMS

The Study Committee on Public Retirement Systems will meet January 26 to hear evidence on the effects of inflation on the retirement systems administered by the Public Employees' Retirement Division and the Teachers' Retirement System. The Committee will hear reports from the Legislative Auditor's Office, administrators of the retirement systems, and members of state employee groups.

CONTAINERS
ISSUES FINAL
REPORT

The final meeting of the Study Committee on Containers was held in Helena on December 1, 1979. The Committee, in its final report, made the following statement:

"While rendering no decision on the cost effectiveness of a beverage container deposit law in Montana, the Study Committee on Containers recognizes the following based on the written and oral testimony presented to the Committee:

- (1) that states with current deposit laws demonstrate a reduction in roadside litter, even though a large discrepancy exists in the fines prescribed;
- (2) that states with current deposit laws experience increases in the recycling rate, as compared to non-DDL states by return rate;
- (3) that recycling or refilling of beverage containers saves materials and energy;."

The Study Committee on Containers also recommended:

- "(1) that the people of Montana carefully study the issues and information presented in the Committee's report;
- (2) that the Montana Legislature not adopt legislation that would impose a litter tax; and
- (3) that the Forty-Seventh Legislature enact a bill that would prohibit the sale in Montana of metal beverage containers that have detachable openings."

REPORT AVAILABLE

The Study Committee's final report will be available in public libraries throughout the state and upon request from the Legislative Council.

CAPITOL BUILDING AND PLANNING MEET- ING POSTPONED

The Capitol Building and Planning Committee's scheduled January 9 meeting has been postponed until February. An announcement of the exact date for the February meeting will be made in the next issue of the Interim.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Administrative Code Committee will meet on Friday, January 11, in Room 139 of the State Capitol, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Issues 21 through 24 of the 1979 Montana Administrative Register will be discussed. The Committee will also review the reports of various state agencies concerning the use of public forms, undertaken as part of the government paperwork study mandated by SB 287.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Revenue Oversight Committee will meet Saturday, January 12, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 104, State Capitol.

REVISING
GREENBELT

The Committee will consider a draft bill revising Montana's greenbelt law and receive a recommendation from the Department of Revenue on implementation of the current law. The Committee will discuss alcoholic beverages regulation laws, focusing on the state retail stores system and options for change in the liquor license quota laws.

The Committee will also review short reports on income tax indexing laws in other states and the various interest and penalty rates on delinquent taxes. The Department of Revenue will discuss its pending legal cases, proposed rules, and other administrative matters.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Finance Committee will meet February 1 and 2, in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

UNIVERSITY
FUNDING
FORMULAS

The major item of discussion will be the proposed work plan in developing the revised formula for higher education funding. The Committee is soliciting testimony from the university community during this hearing.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Audit Committee will meet January 21 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

REPORTS TO
BE ISSUED

The Committee will receive and review the following financial/compliance audit reports: Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology;* Northern Montana College;* Montana State University;* and the University of Montana.* (*Audits conducted by Certified Public Accountant firms.)

SUNSET

The public hearing on the Board of Dentists sunset audit report will start at 9:00 a.m.

The public hearing on the Board of Massage Therapists sunset audit report will start at 1:30 p.m.

REPORTS
AVAILABLE

Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, telephone 449-3122.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

EQC TO MEET
JANUARY 25

The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Council will be January 25 in Room 104 of the State Capitol, Helena. Representatives of the uranium industry will

address the problems and future of uranium development in Montana.

Several presentations concerning HJK 21 will be given by members of state agencies and industry to address the relationship of taxation and natural resource laws to economic development compatible with the environment.

WASTE ENERGY

Did you know that one ton of solid waste contains 9 million BTU's? Nine million BTU's is approximately equal to 65 gallons of fuel oil or 9,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

Have you considered how many gallons of fuel oil or cubic feet of natural gas equivalents your community is burying each day?

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH JANUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4	5
						CONSUMER COUNSEL Rm. 104 10:00 a.m.	
6	7	8		9	10	11 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE Rm. 139 9:30 am ANNEXATION Billings-9:30 Eastern Mt. College	12 REVENUE OVERSIGHT Rm. 104 9:30 am
13	14	15		16	17	18	19 STATE MANDATES Rm. 104 All day
20	21 LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMM. Rm. 104 9:00 am	22		23	24	25 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL Rm. 104 All Day	26
27	28	29		30	31		

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MARCH

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY

MONDAY

SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

							1 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM SPEECHES 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	2 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM SPEECHES 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am
3	4	5 WATER OVERSIGHT 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM SPEECHES 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	

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